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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 9 MARCH 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that, notwithstanding the recent cease-fire violations by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, which we reported to the Security Council (S/1995/182), the Azerbaijani side reaffirms its pledge to observe the cease-fire and its commitment to a political settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

The Azerbaijan Republic's approach to a settlement of the conflict is based on the generally accepted international norms of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and for human rights and the rights of national minorities.

Unfortunately, owing to the fact that the Armenian side has continued to maintain its destructive position and has refused to discuss the question of liberating the occupied Azerbaijani territories, including the Lachin and Shusha districts, there has been no progress in the talks being held within the framework of the Minsk process.

We have also drawn attention to the question of the liberation of Lachin and Shusha, which must and can be resolved within the framework of a political agreement on the settlement of the conflict, in 1993 (S/26556).

It will be recalled that the section of the Budapest Document entitled "Intensification of CSCE action in relation to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (A/49/800-S/1994/1435) notes that the conclusion of the aforementioned agreement will make it possible to deploy multinational peace-keeping forces of this European organization as an essential element for the implementation of the agreement itself.

As a token of its flexibility and a constructive approach, the Azerbaijani side proposed that this agreement should include a paragraph stating that the parties to the conflict, with the assistance of the peace-keeping forces of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and under their supervision, would guarantee safe passage along the Hankendi/Stepanakert-Shusha-

Lachin-Goris road. Further, while the Lachin road and district remained under the control of the OSCE forces, armed forces would be completely withdrawn from Lachin district. (OSCE military control would be maintained for the duration of the Minsk Conference.) Finally, the return of displaced persons to Lachin district would begin on a set date.

This proposal was transmitted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Mr. H. Hassanov, to the representatives of the co-chairmen of the Minsk Conference, Mr. V. Kazimirov and Mr. K. Bjorner, and to the representative of the United States of America to the Minsk Conference, Mr. G. Pressel, during their recent visits to the region.

Thus, Azerbaijan actively reaffirms its commitment to the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes, and believes that the members of the international community, particularly the Minsk Conference, will support its constructive position.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar G. KOULIEV
Permanent Representative